Confederate Half Dollar comment by
J. Sanford Saltus in address read
to Amer Numis & Arch Soc
Proceedings 1899 p. 46

Vol 35 p 378 Numismatist Aug 1922

Obit of Saltus Jones

Ginger Ale Cyanide Story

"Death by Misadventure" ruling of coroner's jury.

No mention of Confed Half

or Confed Die.

Tulane
Howard Library

The Louisiana Historical Society
521 Carondelet Bldg
New Orleans stopped Oct 1961

Louisiana Hist Assn
La State Univ

Louisiana History
Baton Rouge

Mrs Robert Robinson
26 Audubon Pl
New Orleans

Mrs Eunice K Heckert
6220 S Claiborne
display in Cabildo

Mary Cunningham
Jeanne Blythe

Who has the Confederate Half Dollar Die?

So much has been written about the Confederate Half Dollar during the Civil War Centennial that many may wonder why the original die remains unaccounted for. Perhaps like the Hope diamond it became a symbol of misfortune. The last purchaser died of cyanide poisoning shortly after the acquisition. The organization which received it from him has become defunct

Marcus asked Taylor for a restrike and didn't get it. Mason who

Scott the die cracked in making first restrike on 1861 US Half. After it was cut by no silver was to use it on

After four ~~examples~~ specs were ~~struck~~ made

Prochey

~~It has been More copies have been made of the~~

~~tio~~ It is the first ~~US coin to be~~ piece in [illegible] to be made by spark erosion.

Cut too deeply so screw press had to be used
Cut up remark about screw press

The die was sold by Scott Stamp + Coin Co to Henry Chapman on June 22, 1893 at the Herman sale and by Chapman to Judson Brenner ~~in 1910~~ who had it in 1910. The die reappeared in Proskey's hands in 1918 and Chapman said he owned it in 1919. J. Sanford Saltus bought it in 1922 when he gave it to the Louisiana Historical Society, in N.O. ~~the Scott sold the die to~~

In 1932 Henry Chapman confused the matter by stating that the die was given by Mr. Saltus to the "City Museum" in New Orleans"

Stimulated by information based upon a rubbing ~~other~~ of the Confederate half dollar obtained by Ebenezer Locke Mason

wrote Dr B. F. Taylor, former chief Corner of the Confederacy requesting

On March 27, 1879 General Marcus J. Wright of the Adjutant General's Office in Washington, D.C. ~~requested~~ among other things a copy of the Confederate Half Dollar for the Confederate Archives. This ~~he~~ Taylor said he planned to do but prompt sent the die ~~before~~ and his specimen of the half dollar to Ebenezer Locke Mason in Philadelphia ~~along with the [illegible]~~ Taylor wanted the coin and the die to go to a ~~museum~~ historical or numismatic museum. ~~While the coin did find its way to the American~~ His wish ~~as to the coin came true in 1918 and his wish for the~~ did not come true ~~for ones~~ until about forty years later. Mason was frustrated because

26
18
19

BRAEMORE KENMORE SOMERS

Make appointments by telephone

IT SAVES TIME

"The Confederate Half Dollar"
Mehl Numis Monthly
Vol 3 No 1 p 59
Jan 1910

Article by E H Adams indicates only the one original known. Same article in the Elder Magazine

KEEP IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE-THE COST IS LOW

Proof Sets struck	none
Coinage executed for foreign governments	none
Special Mint Sets	2,261,583

The Numismatist March 1967

Vol 80 p. 300

Production figures for individual mints have not yet been released by the Treasury Department. Regardless of mint of issue, 1966 dated coins bear no mint mark.

"S. H. Chapman of Philadelphia bought the original half-die from which the Confederacy struck its half dollar for $31 on June 27 at the Herman sale at No. 739 Broadway. The other side of the coin was made from a die in the New Orleans mint in 1861. Only four impressions were made. A cancellation of the die has been effected by a straight file-cut across the face, to prevent its further use. Otherwise it is in perfect condition." (Hooper's Restrikes, *The Numismatist*, April, 1894, p. 63)

In ... would
tice to ... most imagi
script writer, a Miami,
man shot and killed on
shop bandit, wounded a
tured a third. The pol
was wounded as was S
owner of the shop wh
was made and genera
the 1967 ANA conventi
Miami.

Leader of the robbery
vin Whitsett of Akro
complices were Luthe
Dayton, O., and Rober
also believed to be fro

The trio entered S
Boulevard store just
Monday, January 23, a
up two of the employ

Oct 1918 Numismatist p 413

Correction as ownership of Confed Half Dollar die. Henry Chapman says he owns it. not Brenner.

See p. 395 (Sept 1918)

Brenner owned the Confed one cent dies

In the Henry Chapman Sale of November 17, 1932, Lot No. 762, is a Confederate half dollar restrike. In the description it states "Very rare and will be more so as I sold the die to Mr. Sanford Saltus, who presented it to the City Museum in New Orleans."

In the S.H. and H. Chapman Sale on July 7, 1899, of the E.G.Chandlee collection, Lot 386 is described as follows:

> 1861. The obverse die from which the above coins were made is, cancelled, but a most interesting memento of the rebellion. The coins above referred to were a Confederate States cent copper restrike Lot 384, and a silver restrike, Lot 385.

the 1¢ die

In the S.H. and H. Chapman sale of November 6, 1901 of the C. S. Wilcox collection, Lot 1089 is a Confederate cent restruck in gold; Lot 1090 is a Confederate cent restruck in silver. Lot 1091 is a Confederate cent restruck in copper. As part of the description it states, in 1091, "The originals were in nickel and be it to the credit of Haseltine and Randall, they did not make any restrikes in that metal. The dies are now cancelled and so damaged that no more could be struck. Hence the above will increase in value."

Coin Collectors Journal May 1876 p 96

Says Confed Cent dies
were sent south and recovered
by J. W Haseltine + Peter L Krider of Phila
they intended to restrike many but die broke
after striking

7 in gold
12 in silver
55 in copper

[illegible] church [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Wednesday [illegible]

James Kelly
Auction of Central States Convention
May 9, 1958

#1261 Comped Cent in
Copper Nickel
Valued at 750.00

#1262 Comped Cent Restrike in Gold
Valued at $3500.00

The Confederate
Half Dollar
is mentioned
by Eller in his
Sale 3/11/10 lot [illegible]
Full description
of [illegible] specimen
[illegible]

From

LESTER MERKIN

June 8 1966
Coin World
Bowers article
on Confed
Half Dollar

Values it at
very high figure

515 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.
PLAZA 3-1130

Letters in possession of
Louis S. Werner on exhibit
at ANA 8/16/61 Atlanta

The J. W. Scott Co, Ltd
to Farran Zerbe 2/19/1910

Advance was given option on Confed half.

The J W Scott Co, Ltd
to Farran Zerbe 2/28/1910

Confed half sold many years ago to Rice at auction for $870.00
Rice got sick soon after & was repurchased ~~[illegible]~~ then
by ~~Scott~~

March 1, 1910 Sale of Elder it is illustrated

Mar 3, 1910 Lipman H. Low To Farran Zerbe

Scott sold it for $850 at one of his auctions (possibly [illegible]
and it was apparently bought in by Scott
In 1905 Low got [illegible] for $750 & failed to [illegible] it

~~[illegible] Scott~~ Chapman [illegible]

Nu[illegible]strat

7-[illegible]	Apr 94	Herman sale of die
7-181	Aug 94	nothing much.
7-[illegible]40	Nov 94	how tells a [illegible] die
7-284	Dec 94	confederate "dime"
9-[illegible]	Aug 16	describes die cutter, die and method of coinage of 4 pieces
10-[illegible]	Sept 17	(bad citation, [illegible] be 9-170)
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Elder sale, Taylor letter, Sears letter, [illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible] 1910	Marles Jacobs specimen found in Rondout, N.Y.; also questions Reed piece.
9-[illegible]	[illegible] 1918	rumor in newspaper
[illegible]-101	[illegible] 1919	Excellent article probably by [illegible]
[illegible]	Apr 19[illegible]	[illegible]
63-[illegible]	Apr 19[illegible]	[illegible]
64-[illegible]	Jan 19[illegible]	[illegible]
54-20	Jan 19[illegible]	about [illegible] — [illegible]
	Sept 19[illegible]	[illegible] — [illegible]

Patterson DuBois
Vol 17 A J N (July 1882) p 14

Says Confed Halfs were struck in a screw press as they couldn't be struck with one blow. He also comments on N.O. Mint in Civil War.

He may be quite wrong but this is where the screw press theory comes from.

Confed Half Dollar
Die

H. Chapman sale | Nov 17, 1932

Lot 762 Confed Half Dollar.
"Very rare and will be more so, as I sold the die to Mr. Sanford Saltus, who presented it to the City Museum in New Orleans."

John J. Ford, Jr
owns brass splashing
from damaged Confed
50¢ reverse die

6/29/60

Omaha ~~[illegible]~~ Neb

Library (Mr Gibson)

Byron Reed specimen of Confed 50¢ examined + found to be a restrike with obv badly flattened and edge completely crushed so that no reeding (no pun) shows. Light ~~g~~ color granular frosty surface

Also copper Confed [illegible]

Confed States of America – Its Monetary Problem
(Material on Confed Coinage + Finance)
by Ted Weissbuch

Numismatist May, 1961 et seq

mentions my name
data on third spec of Conf half OK.

"Original" Confederate Half Dollar Stolen

This is the alleged third specimen

Only 2 dead people saw it
Both made handwritten offers (no carbon)
No pictures.

Sept 1960 Numismatist Vol 73, p 1332
Aug 20, 1960 Numis Scrap. Vol 26 p. 2202
"from Meminger"

Found in Arkansas with pile of gold
but bought from [illegible] negro who didn't
show up for more [illegible] Sash than $50.00.

Confed Half
For text of letter of Scott
sending out restrikes on 10/17/79
See
Numismatist Dec 1911
Vol 24 p 422

Confederate Half Dollar

Affidavits of Mason

published in

Scott Stamp & Coin 136th Auction catalogue

Jan 10, 1896 sale p. 12.

Ford's specimen is apparently the Davis piece as the same source has a pair of guns which reputedly belonged to Davis. This is not to be made public, however. Anyway, this section is going to be revised a bit.

Bailey + Co? Standard Cat; I thought at the Hamilton

is it worn?

[illegible] which [illegible]

[illegible], however, [illegible], this [illegible] in

Bailey + Co? Standard Cat; I thought [illegible]

Creators of Distinguished Numismatic Auction Sale Catalogues

Is it [illegible]?

[illegible]

8/1/62

[illegible]

Numis Vol 7 p. 63 Confederate Hooper's Restrikes.

Kreisberg Schulman Auction
Brand Lichtenfels Sale Mar 18-21, 1964

Confederate Certificate
Valued at $10,000 =
Scratches + cuts otherwise fine
7 known

Confederate Cent

Die

H + H Chapman Sale July 7, 1899 (E.G. Chandlee + J.A. Glasson

Lot 384 Confed Cent Copper

Lot 385 Confed Cent Silver

Lot 386 " 1861 The obverse die from which the above coins were made, cancelled, but a most interesting memento of the Rebellion"

CONFED CENT

the obverse + reverse

DIES

were on exhibit

at A.N.S in 1914 loaned by Edgar H. Adams

See catalogue of exhibition
p. 131

now owned by John J Ford, Jr
ex Virgil Brand
ex Judson Brenner
ex Adams

they are both deliberately
damaged.

Sold to Robert Brashler 1960 ±
& used for transfer dies
+ strikes from them

Given to Smithsonian Institution

Judson Brewer owns dies of Confederate Cent

Jan 1912 Numismatist p. 23

March 1964

John Ford told me he owned 4 copper nickel Confederate Cents including the worn one. He said one of the original 12 is lost

A.J.N. Apr. 1881 Vol 21, p. 23

The so called Confederate Half Dime is really only a silver token, half dime size, issued by some enthusiastic Southerners during the early days of the rebellion. The following description made from a specimen which found its way to the hands of Mr Ed. Frossard may be relied upon as correct: Confederate flag flying, i.e.; A UNITED SOUTH 1861 Rev. Cotton plant surrounded by fifteen stars. Border very slightly raised, light milling on edge. Half dime size; silver.

A.J.N. Jan 1878 Vol 12 p 80

"We notice in a Georgia paper, that another Confederate silver token of 1861, similar to that presented to the Boston Numismatic Society by General G.P. Thurston has lately appeared. We have heard of a Confederate "Quarter" which ~~has lately~~ is said to have made its appearance in Arkansas. These are undoubtedly of recent manufacture, and are to be classed with the pseudo-Colonial piece "Nomina Belgica" claiming to have been struck in 1623, but which was really a sort of Chatterton exploit, which saw first light, not many years ago — New York City."

Numismatist (Mar 1919) Vol 32 p 103

Confed dimes + half dimes comment —

"The specimens known are no doubt trial pieces of private concerns who hoped to secure a contract from the Confederacy for these coins, or else they are fake pieces intended to deceive the amateurs."

EXHIBIT OF THE

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

ORIGINAL CONFEDERATE

CENT

12 original cents were struck in copper-nickel by Robert Lovett in Philadelphia in 1861.

ORIGINAL CONFEDERATE

1861 HALF DOLLAR

Only four were coined at the New Orleans Mint. Three are known, the others being owned by the American Numismatic Society and by John J. Ford, Jr.

Prepared in 1960

THE NEWMAN SPECIMEN OF THE CONFEDERATE HALF DOLLAR

In 1879 E.B.Mason,Jr., a Philadelphia coin dealer, advertised for rare coins and was contacted by Dr.B.F.Taylor, who, in 1861, had been chief coiner of the New Orleans Mint. Taylor had a Confederate half dollar and the Confederate reverse die from which it was struck. Taylor sold them to Mason, who sold them to J. W. Scott for $310.00. Scott, assisted by his associate, David Proskey, arranged to use a screw press to make restrikes from the die. Through advertising, 500 standard United States half dollars dated 1861 from the New Orleans mint were obtained and the reverses machined smooth on a lathe. In Scott's letter to purchasers of restrikes he states that in making the first silver restrike the die cracked at the edge so they banded the die to keep it from further cracking; that they then determined to use the die to strike 500 aluminum pieces with J.W.Scott's advertising card on the other side, as this would be less likely to damage the die further; that after striking the 500 aluminum pieces they were able to strike the 500 restrikes on the silver half dollars; and finally that after the 500 were completed the die was softened and defaced by a file cut and offered for sale by Scott for $50.00. Two brass splash pressings were made of the defaced die. The die was sold by Lyman H. Low of Scott Stamp & Coin to Chapman for $31.00 at the Herman sale on June 27, 1893, and by Chapman to Judson Brenner who had it in 1910.

The original Taylor Confederate half dollar was advertised for sale for $1000 in the December, 1879 Coin Collector's Journal and was sold in 1882 by Scott at auction for $870.00. On March 11, 1910 Thomas L. Elder allegedly sold the coin at auction for $3750.00 but apparently it was bid in on reserve. At auctions in the next few years it was again retained by the owners at a reserve price. In 1914 it was exhibited at the American Numismatic Society as belonging to Edgar H. Adams. In 1918, Proskey, having acquired both the coin and the damaged die, sold them to J. Sanford Saltus for $3,000.00. On July 30, 1918, Saltus gave the coin to the American Numismatic Society. Chapman had the die in 1919 and said in his Nov. 17, 1932 Sale (Lot 762) that Saltus presented it to the City Museum in New Orleans and Philpott states he saw it in a museum in Louisiana to the best of his recollection. The die has never been located in recent years.

The Newman specimen was found in circulation by Marks Jacobs of Rondout, New York, about 1880 when he received it in change at a bank. It was brought to public attention in the June, 1910 Numismatist due to the publicity given by Elder to the sale of the Taylor specimen. The Newman specimen was sold, apparently by Elder, to H. O. Granberg, of Oshkosh, and later was acquired by Waldo Newcomer, of Baltimore. Newcomer's half dollar collection was sold intact to Col. E.H.R.Green in the 1930s and sold about 1941 by the Green Estate to B.G.Johnson, of St. Louis, and subsequently sold to Newman. The Newman specimen is described in the January, 1951 Numismatist.

The following points show the Newman specimen to be genuine:

1. It shows substantial wear and its weight is nevertheless 190-1/2 grains which is 5-1/2 grains more than any of the restrikes and only 1-3/4 grains less than the American Numismatic Society's specimen which is in proof condition.

2. It has perfect edge milling which no restrike has because in making restrikes the edge was crushed against a smooth collar by the pressure of the screw press.

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The Coin Collector's Journal has the following information:

VOLUME	PAGE	ISSUE		
IV	97	July	1879	(Picture of Confederate Half Dollar and announcement of its history and acquisition)
IV	Inside back cover	Sept.	1879	(Offer for sale of original and restrikes)
IV	188	Dec.	1879	(Distribution of restikes)